

The Sun.

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The Second Ancona Note.

The reply of the United States to the Austro-Hungarian note of December 15 relative to the sinking of the Ancona is adequate and responsive. It answers the questions raised by the Imperial and Royal Government with sufficient explicitness to establish the facts and principles on which our demands are grounded. It properly refrains from discussion of those principles, the acceptance of which by all civilized nations has been made conspicuous recently in the renewed adherence given to them by Austria's Teutonic ally. With admirable brevity and directness, but with no suggestion of unnecessary harshness, Mr. Lansing reiterates the terms of our communication of December 6. The message conveyed in that document remains unimpaired in substance and import, recording precisely the contentions and sentiments of the United States with respect of the destruction of the Ancona.

Threatening Egypt.

A large force of Germans and Turks, according to despatches received in London, is assembling in Syria for an invasion of Egypt. This design, it was announced in Germany, was a part of the Teutonic drive across the Balkans and contingent upon its success.

The expedition is being formed by Field Marshal von der Goltz, whose long service under the Ottoman Government especially fits him for the command. He has established his headquarters at Aleppo, and his forces, which consist partly of the army corps at Constantinople, are to be equipped at Aleppo, Alexandria and along the Syrian littoral and are drilled by German officers.

These preparations are made with the usual German foresight and thoroughness. A railway is being constructed across the Sinai desert far enough inland to be out of range of the British warships patrolling the coast. To obviate the difficulty of water supply and thus do away with the cause of the failure of an earlier Turkish expedition the Germans are laying miles of water pipes across the desert. In this way it is believed that a speedy advance can be made and a blow struck that will win the Suez and open the way to Egypt despite the new defenses built by the British.

While the Allies have professed to consider these preparations as unimportant, recent events show that they are far from ignoring them. The matter was discussed a few days ago in the French Chamber and this has been followed by the announcement of the British War Office that one hundred thousand British troops had been withdrawn from the Dardanelles for use in "another sphere of operations." These troops could be employed with great effectiveness against the Teutonic Egyptian designs by breaking the communications between Berlin and Constantinople; for, in the absence of a fleet, the Balkan railway is the only means by which Germany could expect to make the expedition a success.

It is very evident from the interest which the threatened advance has aroused in England that the British Government will not be taken so much unawares here as it has been at some other points in the Allies' line of defense. It has strengthened the fortification at the north entrance of the canal and has also increased the size of the Egyptian army.

The expedition, striking at such a vital point of the British Empire and recalling Napoleon's advance across the same desert, his memorable siege of Acre and his repulse in Syria, would be the most fascinating military undertaking the Kaiser could undertake.

Baltimore's Morals.

Neither as bad as the professional expositors of vice would make it appear nor as good as the sensitive residents of the town proclaim, Baltimore's moral condition is probably not worse nor better than that of any other city of its size similarly situated. He is a poor investigator who in a large town cannot find a scandal to justify his salary, and the offenses that enlist the activities of the moral crusader lend themselves easily to sensation.

New York can sympathize with the Maryland metropolis in its futile indignation under the assault that has been made on its name. This city was for years the headquarters

ground of those whose eyes saw only the vicious side of life and whose vocal organs were potent in advertising their discoveries. We do not flatter ourselves that they have abandoned so fruitful a field, although for some time they have maintained a refreshing silence. At present it is not fashionable to defame New York. It is true; but at any moment there may be an outbreak of wild charges, unverified assumption and loud denunciations.

Baltimore will survive this attack. The city may even turn it to advantage by punishing some particularly bold and obnoxious offenders. Every community has its share of these, and nobody regrets their exposure. They do not control Baltimore, however, any more than they control New York, and nothing is gained by seeking to fasten the odium they have earned on the town so unfortunate as to shelter them.

In the Privacy of Judge Gary's Dining Room.

Among the multitudinous speculations evoked by Judge GARY's recent entertainment of his friends, none seems more reasonable or defensible than that which represents the company as giving particular attention to the paragraph of President Wilson's address in which he said:

"And there are many additional sources of revenue which can justly be resorted to without hampering the industries of the country or putting any too great charge upon individual expenditure."

"A tax of one cent per gallon on gasoline and naphtha would yield, at the present estimated production, \$10,000,000; a tax of 50 cents per horse-power on automobiles and internal explosion engines, \$15,000,000; a stamp tax on bank checks, probably \$18,000,000; a tax of 25 cents per ton on pig iron, \$10,000,000; a tax of 25 cents per ton on fabricated iron and steel, probably \$10,000,000."

Against a tax on gasoline and internal explosion engines the voice of the great commoner, speaking for the downtrodden, has already been heard. Against taxation of pig iron and fabricated iron and steel, two prime necessities of life, why should not the Colonel protest? He is a man of iron; the impingement might be personal. He too patronizes the internal explosion engine; others of Judge GARY's guests on this eventful evening utilize that ingenious mechanism in their golf bags and comings.

It is worthy of note that as time progresses the names of hitherto undisclosed guests at this function are revealed. So far it has not been suggested that the editor of the *Commoner* was present in person. Yet if these proposals of President Wilson, which have already enlisted his attention, engaged also the thought of the Colonel and his fellows around the Gary mahogany, who shall say that the Nebraska statesman was not with them in spirit?

Research Work in the War Zone.

That during the terrific and all absorbing struggle for national life and prosperity now raging in Europe some men's minds are directed toward scientific investigations, not always related to the death struggle, is one of the good things of the day. The Berlin correspondent of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* advertises to the fact that Professor Toubert, president of the Austrian Anthropological Society, and his students have examined 3,700 prisoners, taking thousands of measurements, which have determined that there does not exist a pure race. All the prisoners are of racial mixture; the various racial elements have been moulded into one people by language and circumstances. Even among the Poles there were five different groups, which he has isolated in certain features.

Among the prisoners he found those who came from the region between the northwest of Russia and the Ural Mountains called Finns, and among those coming from the Ural Mountains and the Volga he found a mixture of Slav with the Finn, the German and the Tartar, two types of blond and one a brunette type. He compared the so-called Little Russian and the White Russian, who speak the purest Russian dialect, with their relations from Galicia, Bukovina and Hungary, and with the Lithuanians and the Slavs from East Prussia. He found those from the governments of Kovno, Wilna, Grodno and Suwalki to speak the oldest of old Indo-Germanic tongues. They are Catholic but strongly inclined to pagan practices. His conclusions will be published.

Such studies may serve to remove racial prejudice, which even the so-called Christian civilization appears not to have influenced materially up to the present time.

Another interesting investigation carried on despite the strenuous demands of the war upon all individuals was that of President LINCOLN of the Supreme District Court of Berlin, who investigated the relationship of alcohol to crime in the Prussian statistics bearing on prisoners for 1913-14. Among the male prisoners 26 per cent. committed criminal acts while in a state of intoxication; while among female prisoners only 5 per cent. were under the influence of alcohol when the crime was committed. The fact that 15 per cent. of the male prisoners were habitual drunkards would indicate a lesser criminal disposition among women.

In England also medical research work has been done, under the provision of the national health insur-

ance act, which appropriates annually 200,000 pounds for every insured person for medical research, a provision, by the way, which may well be adopted by the contemplated State and national insurance acts, to which we have recently referred. Naturally investigations were undertaken upon many problems arising from the war.

Research work on antiseptics, on the nature of typhoid fever and on gas gangrene has proved of great value; also the cholera cultures brought to St. Mary's Hospital from Galicia in 1914, from which vaccines may be prepared. Work was also carried on by aid of this research fund to determine the virulence of bacteria in varying conditions; also on dysentery, industrial fatigue, health of munition workers, disorders of the soldiers' hearts, and gunshot wounds. All this material will be made available in the official medical history of the war. It is expected that the coordinating work of this committee will mark the opening of a new era in medicine in England, replacing by accurate knowledge gathered by careful and qualified observers the former general statements founded on imperfect observations.

Christmas in Johnson's Place.

There is a certain attraction about empty spaces on the map. They catch the eye and invite speculation. Some of them lie nearer home than Siberia or central Africa. One of them is only a few inches from Manhattan. Burlington county runs across the Delaware to the ocean shore. In its eastern seven-eighths or so the cartographer has no difficulty in finding room for his place names.

This region is the heart of the New Jersey Pines. Lakewood, in Ocean county, exhibits to its resorters only the fringe of a region rich in natural charm, of a somewhat restricted character, but of quality attested by its hold upon the affections of those who know it. And it has a people, outlanders to the metropolitan, with a history. Their isolation goes back to pre-Revolutionary times. In the war of independence they conducted guerrilla operations along the coast, and contributed a chapter of lawless activity to such monuments of local history as, for instance, Howe and Barrax's "Historical Collections of New Jersey," published in the '40s, when the tales were ripe for looking and were told by those who had them from the actors or eyewitnesses.

South of Mount Holly, which sits beside Rancocas Creek (known to readers of Cooper), deep in the pine-land is Vincentown; and ten miles beyond is a typical little settlement of the Pines, Johnson's Place. Here in the simple one room schoolhouse, where twenty pupils take their share of the benefits of the State's public school system, one hundred persons gathered to receive a visit from Santa Claus, sent to them by a church organization. An assemblage of that size in that place means that homes a long jaunt away were represented. And the story has a special flavor, because these people who were having their first community celebration of Christmas have all their lives been sending trees, berries and greens from their native woodlands to the cities for the holiday trade.

A year or so ago the people of the Pines were "investigated." Their morals were found to be remarkably easy, and their manners oddly unpollished. Percentages of mental, moral and physical defect were calculated and arranged in neat columns of statistical damnation. The Pines are shrewd, mighty well able to take care of themselves; even an investigator must admit that. There is much that can be done to better their lot; even a sceptical critic of the exact sciences of reform would hesitate to deny it.

But when it comes to the question of a modus operandi, and an agent, how silly and futile legislative investigations and social science missionaries look alongside of the big hearted saint who is just now "in season." They pity people who are "different"; he wants everybody to be comfortable and happy because we are all alike.

Safety First.

The association formed by well meaning citizens for the purpose of preventing accidents and death from avoidable causes is contributing valuable information upon this subject. Undoubtedly the association will take cognizance of the following facts, which have recently been authoritatively announced.

The State of Pennsylvania is favored in the possession of a Bureau of Accidents, which is efficiently gathering information as a basis for various safeguards against the prevailing carelessness among the travelling public. The astonishing fact is recorded that during the year 1914-15 only two deaths occurred among the millions who ride upon the passenger trains in that State, demonstrating the remarkable efficiency of the railroad service in Pennsylvania. This happy fact is emphasized by the additional information that of the 360 persons who were unavoidably killed on the railroad tracks by trains 60 were trespassers and 105 were struck at grade crossings. Does not this comparison clearly indicate that the chief guilt rests upon the public and not upon the railroad managers? This is also proved by the report that thirteen passengers were killed by street railways; ten persons lost their lives by jumping from moving cars.

New York city would appear to be almost as dangerous as a bull-bait when the report of the Police Commissioner from January 1 to November 30 of this year is considered. Five hundred and sixty-seven persons were killed and twenty thousand injured by vehicles in the streets of New York during that period. Only about one-quarter of the fatal accidents were due to automobile and motor trucks, sixty-seven were caused by street cars, eighty-eight by horse drawn vehicles, forty-six by falls from vehicles, thirty-six by collisions and eighty-one by miscellaneous causes.

Commissioner Woods has wisely pointed out that it is as important to regulate by law the movements of the public on the streets as to regulate the driving of vehicles. If a fine were imposed upon violators of the rule that streets should only be crossed at definite points, designated by the Commissioner, many if not most accidents from collision with moving vehicles would be avoided.

It would appear, in view of the Pennsylvania State observations, that the regulations imposed by Commissioner Woods may alone be depended upon to accomplish this end.

A little house well filled.—DYNAN. Fare you well, old House!—WILL. CARLETON.

Christmas week don'ts for paternalists: Don't open bureau drawers. Don't look into closets. When the collar button rolls under the chifforon or the bed, don't pursue it. It is better to let the collar go loose than to risk the premature revelation of the contents of the wardrobe or lace curtains. Be blind, be blind—and again, be blind!

An evergreen on a New England hillside is prettier with snow on it, but a candle bearing Christmas tree in a parlor is better without cotton batting imitation of the outdoor beauties of winter. Beware of excessive realism!

Two wives await VILLA; Los Angeles sports a welcome to Cuba with No. 2.—Newspaper headline.

Life is just one civil war after another for this Mexican patriot.

A girl went to the movies. Three men in the audience moved her. An usher remonstrated with the men. A policeman put them out. They followed the usher on his way home, attacked him and cut off one of his ears. It is less dangerous to insult women than to protect them!

A diligent celebrator should be able to record his joy at the coming of the new year with sufficient emphasis even if Mayor MITCHELL does close up the bars at 3 o'clock on the morning of January 1.

Spain, it is reported, will buy German and Austrian ships interned in Spanish harbors, an aggregate tonnage of 100,000 tons. A contrast between such a fleet nowadays and one of the same size in the bad old days of the Spanish main.

On the Armageddon battle front there is nothing to report.

LANGUAGE STUDY.

Some Good, Practical Suggestions for American Teachers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have just received your issue of December 21, containing the article on "Language Study." It is a very timely and valuable contribution to the discussion of the problem of language study in the public schools. I am sure that it will be read with interest by all those who are concerned with the education of our youth.

It is a well known fact that the majority of our population are of foreign birth or descent. It is therefore of great importance that we should have a system of language study in our schools which will enable them to understand and appreciate the language and culture of their own people.

One of the most important factors in the acquisition of a foreign language is the acquisition of a good vocabulary. This can be accomplished by the use of a good dictionary and by the study of the language in its own country.

Another important factor is the acquisition of a good grammar. This can be accomplished by the study of the grammar of the language in its own country.

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POT CHEESE IN WARFARE.

One of the many surprises of the struggle in Europe is that schmierkase seems likely to be classed as a munition of war. If any member of the international cheese family was supposed to be beyond conscription for the purpose of slaughter on the battlefield it was this cheese, which in composition and in name suggests only the most peaceful of pastures.

Schmierkase is a stiffen as root beer is to schnapps. It is to gorgonzola as a lubricant is to an irritant; to Roquefort as a Ford pilgrim is to Colonel Roosevelt; to Limburger as a bomb is to an apocalyptic gas bomb. It has been supposed to be the most neutral of the large family that answers to the common name of cheese. Yet the schmierkase magnates of America have declared that they are unable to meet the Christmas demands for their product because the cheese is so stiff that it cannot be rolled or molded into the proper shape for use in the manufacture of high explosives.

The effect of the announcement in this country is problematical. Will children continue to smear their bread with this cheese as they have done since the first able to handle a table knife, or will they fly from the dining room and seek safety under a bed when they see an ingredient of an explosive as deadly as dynamite set out upon the table? Will the Allies consider it neutral on the part of adults to consume schmierkase when the source of the cheese is a munition of war? Will the Teutons complain of the reduced consumption of schmierkase here in order, as they may charge, that there may be the more of it to be used against them in the war?

How is a German submarine to determine the location of a steamship of the allied nations? Will the Allies Power have a cargo of schmierkase, since it does not proclaim itself as a munition of war, and what international complications are likely to arise if a torpedo vessel is found to have had schmierkase on board? It is a question which the Department of War should consider.

It is interesting to note that some of the encyclopedias say that the word "cheese" comes from the Latin "caseus," which means "the cheese," meaning "just the thing."

AFRICAN GOLD.

With German Cruisers Out of Commission, England Gets It Easily.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have just received your issue of December 21, containing the article on "African Gold." It is a very timely and valuable contribution to the discussion of the problem of African gold in the public schools. I am sure that it will be read with interest by all those who are concerned with the education of our youth.

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KEEPING STREETS CLEAN.

Mr. Fetherston Exonerated for the Present Conditions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have just received your issue of December 21, containing the article on "Keeping Streets Clean." It is a very timely and valuable contribution to the discussion of the problem of keeping streets clean in the public schools. I am sure that it will be read with interest by all those who are concerned with the education of our youth.

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MR. KITCHIN'S POLICY.

Does It Receive the Approval of the "People Back Home?"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have just received your issue of December 21, containing the article on "Mr. Kitchin's Policy." It is a very timely and valuable contribution to the discussion of the problem of Mr. Kitchin's policy in the public schools. I am sure that it will be read with interest by all those who are concerned with the education of our youth.

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TO OPEN U. S. RIVERS FOR WATER POWER

Revocable Permits Will Be Extended to 50 Years.

By New Bill.

PART OF ECONOMY PLAN.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The Administration bill providing for the use of public lands and national forests for water power development has been passed and will be introduced when Congress reassembles on January 4. This is the first of a series of conservation measures that the Administration proposes to have enacted into law this session. It was drafted by Representative Ferris of Oklahoma, chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands, and has been introduced on behalf of the Administration by Secretary of the Interior.

The bill proposes the substitution of a definite fifty year tenure in place of the revocable permit authorized by existing law. The right is reserved to take over the properties at the end of fifty years and on not less than three years notice with due compensation. It may be made or the permit transferred to a third party. Permits are irrevocable except on breach of conditions.

States Retain Control.

The regulation and control of service and charges to consumers, as well as the supervision of stock and land issues, are left to the State where the plant is located, and assumed by the Federal Government where the plant is in a Territory or where it involves an interstate use of the power. Where the development is in a State, the Federal Government has no authority to regulate rates or service, authority is retained by the Government until such time as the State has established a public utility commission or other authority to regulate rates and service.

Individuals and corporations holding revocable permits under the present law are given option to exchange them for a fifty year permit. The proposed law is in no way intended to interfere with and regulations of the State relating to appropriations, use or distribution of water.

Demand Is Urgent.

In a letter commenting on the bill Secretary Lane says that there is urgent demand for such legislation. "The country is in a desperate straits," he writes. "Coal, oil and gas are not available in quantities sufficient to meet the demand for power in places where inextinguishable water power could be had."

"Lands which would produce abundant power are being wasted because of the failure to develop hydroelectric power which would pump water to them. The present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or preparation for war, and would also provide a source of cheap and extensive power development. Available capital has been because it will not be hazardous and the present method of producing power by burning coal is wasteful and expensive. The development of water power would provide an available supply of power for war or